

February 24, 2012

No less than four inches of wet snow fell during the night. Temperature at 6 A.M. just at 32 degrees Fahrenheit. As soon as I looked after the coal furnace and then the wood-burner (in the kitchen), I went over to look after "Bossy Bull" and had a hard time finding him. Carrying hay, I went to the back of the field and was sure I would find him in the woods at the edge of the field. Not there. I walked through the entire woods. No sight of him. Finally, after about 45 minutes of searching, I returned to the area of the hay shed, and there, in the gully near Pussy Cat's grave, was Bossy Bull: out of the wind and having just returned from the creek, where he surely had had a good drink. He was as glad to see me as I was to see him. It was "just another day" for the Swans and the chickens. I did my morning chores at the barn, and that was that.

Frustrating and ultimately rewarding afternoon of D&H research at the Historical Society. There are many inconsistencies and inaccuracies in the published history of the Gravity Railroad. One has to sort through them with great care. A couple of nagging inconsistencies from earlier "writers" are now in print on the 1859 configuration of the line, upon which I am now working. After a couple of hours of work, I now have, I hope, a very clear understanding and picture of what was what. Also, I now have a copy of James Archbald's letter of February 5, 1847 to John Wurts in which Archbald reports on the changes made to date to the Gravity Railroad. It's a wonderful document, from which many "writers on the Gravity Railroad" have freely borrowed over the years. It's wonderful to be able to read James Archbald's original words. So, frustration has led to clarity: one can't hope for a better sequence of events.

Lisa Mazarella from WVIA and Michele Bannon have just been here at the Historical Society, and I am very pleased to know that the March 17th interviews that WVIA will conduct to finish the Carbondale "Our Town" documentary will be shot here at the Historical Society. It's a wonderful opportunity to show-case what we have here and who we are.

As Joe Pascoe's guest, I will attend a "performance" at The Corner Bistro tonight. It's a dinner theater. The food will be very good. Joe's friend Karl is probably in the play, which will be quintessential "boulevard theatre"—amusing, to be sure.